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SUBJECT: Revised Coverage Plan for the NIS General Survey

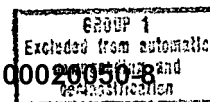
BACKGROUND

In 1968 the USIB approved a long-range Coverage Plan which had been developed by the NIS Committee to improve the effective utilization of limited NIS resources. This plan established scheduling priorities for the primary NIS product, the General Survey, and also specified the more detailed supplementary coverage required for each NIS area. The 1969 NIS User Survey has further emphasized the general community demand for more frequent updating of coverage of priority areas; in addition, the extent of user dependence on the NIS in crash or crisis situations suggests the need for more balanced worldwide General Survey coverage than was foreseen in the 1968 plan. Greater selectivity in designating countries for highest priority maintenance would permit broader utilization of limited resources for contingency coverage of other potentially significant areas.

PURPOSE

The revised coverage plan (attached) provides a flexible but explicit scheduling guide which strikes a better balance between two competing NIS long-range objectives -- more up-to-date priority maintenance and more inclusive worldwide contingency

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coverage. It replaces the broad two-priority groups with three more selective priority groups for General Survey scheduling, taking into account both present and foreseeable needs for national intelligence treatment. All countries or areas already covered by the General Survey (or Chapter I) are included, as appropriate, under one of the three priorities for active maintenance, thus conserving and building upon initial production investment and assuring better support of contingency needs. The plan also broadly defines the distinguishing features of each group and suggests criteria for individual country selection.

IMPLEMENTATION

The number of areas designated for fixed cycle maintenance is reduced from 108 in the 1968 plan to 90 in the revised plan; the countries selected for highest priority maintenance (3 years or less) is reduced from 34 to 20. The precise annual production schedule for each group is flexible, but to facilitate advance planning the following rates of maintenance are suggested:

	<u>No. of areas or combinations</u>	<u>Annual rate (mix range)</u>
Group I (3 yrs. or less)	20	7-10
Group II (4 yrs. or less)	70	18-23
Group III (nonperiodic)	<u>35</u>	<u>0-5</u>
Total	125	30

It is emphasized that all selections are to be kept under continuing review, with assignment to particular priority category kept flexible and subject to upward or downward adjustment on an annual basis.

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